

Comprehensive Situation Report No. 4

Devils Lake Flood 1995

Division of Emergency Management
and

State Water Commission

Incident No. 96-004

Date: March 2, 1996 Time: 8:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

ATTENTION: Appropriate State and Local Agencies

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Potential flooding in 1995, based on expected 1432.3 or greater mean sea level (msl) for Devils Lake.
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.
3. DAMAGE: The water level of Devils Lake is 1431.02 feet msl as of February 28, 1995.
4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

Local: No change from previous report.

State: No change from previous report.

Federal: No change from previous report.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous report.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS:

Local: The Minnewaukan City Council issued an Emergency Declaration on February 16, 1995. The Council cited potential damage to the city infrastructure including the sewage lagoon causing severe erosion, bank saturation, and potential failure.

City of Minnewaukan officials have hired a consulting engineer to develop an action plan to insure the lagoon's integrity is not compromised. The engineer is scheduled to report to the City Council by March 8, 1995.

The Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board created a Stabilization Committee to deal specifically with the stabilization of Devils Lake. The committee held its first meeting on February 27, 1995 in Devils Lake. The committee voted to support the implementation of the Devils Lake Water Management Plan. The committee also adopted the concept of Alternative 28 from the 1990 Devils Lake Stabilization Briefing Report as the preferred method of stabilizing Devils Lake. This alternative involves a 200 cfs pipeline inlet/outlet, with the inlet from the New Rockford Canal and the outlet to the Sheyenne River.

State: The ND Division of Emergency Management has surveyed all 4 rural electric cooperatives and 2 electric suppliers that have power lines which may be affected by the rising waters of Devils Lake. They reported they will not be adversely affected by current lake level projections. However, they have had to raise or relocate facilities to insure service to their

customers. They also reported additional raises in the lake could effect roadway access to the electrical lines which is a greater threat than line failure.

The ND National Guard has hired a consulting engineer to study and report on how to protect the Camp Grafton sewage lagoon from erosion.

The State Director of the ND Division of Emergency Management has briefed the 3 members of the North Dakota Congressional delegation in their Washington, D.C. offices regarding the current Devils Lake situation.

The State Water Commission is conducting a survey of snow depths and water equivalents in the Devils Lake Basin to gauge the potential for runoff into Devils Lake.

Federal: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has provided a current inventory of sandbags, pumps, and hoses to the ND Division of Emergency Management.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: None at this time.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from the previous report.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: As of February 27, 1995, the snow cover in the Devils Lake Basin varied from 5 to 15 inches with a water equivalency from 1.6 to 2.8 inches.

The North Dakota Senate passed legislation authorizing the State Water Commission to establish a temporary Devils Lake field office.

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